178 The totally new factor of
154 machine-powered industrialism is
now beginning to penetrate the lives of both cultivators and
[412] herdsmen. Industrially equipped engineering could lead water
to fields which the oasis cultivator, working with his broad-bladed
mattock, the traditional Inner Asian *ketman*, could never reach.
Modern industry could process the wool and hides of the live-
stock breeder in ways which the nomadic society was never able
to evolve. In addition, it could exploit mineral resources in ways
which would make it possible to put together, out of the unjoined
fragments which lie scattered through Sinkiang, a new, many-
sided society of farming, livestock breeding, mining, industry,
[382] technology, and levels of education previously out of reach. Of
[133] the primary industrial materials, Sinkiang has oil, coal, and prob-
ably iron in large but unknown quantities. It has water power.
Of the scarcer industrial materials, it has copper. It also has gold.

177 The industrial civilization is approaching Sinkiang from two sides at once. From China, American planes sometimes fly in. A few American trucks and cars are already there. American bulldozers have pushed better roads nearer and nearer. One strategic road has already crossed a corner of the Tibetan plateau to the line of southern oases. American geologists have prospected the mineral resources. American arms equipped the Chinese forces which held the province in the last years of Kuomintang rule.

Soviet industrialization stands much closer to the frontiers of Sinkiang. It has already transformed the face of Soviet Inner Asia with mines, factories, new irrigation works, hydroelectric dams, and more facilities for advanced industrial training than there are in the whole of China. Soviet trade is essential to Sinkiang; and the only non-Chinese natives of Sinkiang who have had modern university training have received it in Soviet territory, not in China.

41 Today in Sinkiang, however, industry is still negligible, and the two principal types of economy are pastoral nomadism and oasis farming. Most of the oasis farming is in the Tarim Basin, where man brings water to the desert by irrigation. The homeland of nomadism is Jungaria, where man adapted himself to geography by abandoning agriculture and taking to the herding of animals.